

Trinity Alps Wilderness Trail Condition Report November 3rd, 2011

This will be the last report for 2011. The weather forecast for the next few days calls for appreciable amounts of snow over 3500'. The watershed write-ups here reflect trail conditions prior to the coming winter snows. In the spring this report can still be of value to you because they do, at least, let you know what the trail conditions were at the end of the 2011 season. And frankly, if a watershed lists a trail problem in this report, you can be sure that nothing was done about it over the winter!

If you are planning a winter camping adventure, it is still a good idea to call the Weaverville Ranger District (530 623-2121) to get information on general winter conditions. The RD should at least be able to give you an insight on what the snow conditions are for the access roads to the watersheds you plan to visit, and what the current stream flows and avalanche conditions may be.

Our plan is to start updating this Trail Condition Report again at the beginning of the 2012 field season (which typically starts at the beginning of May). Due to the predicted budget cuts next season however, there is a strong possibility that these cuts will necessitate a further reduction in staffing levels. If this occurs we will at least re-post this report and to let you know that there will be no Trail Condition Report in 2012.

In closing, all of us here at the Ranger District would like to thank you for your cooperation in making this a fantastic hiking season. This year many of you began to e-mail me with timely trails updates that I was able to include within this report. We all benefitted.

Our Wilderness Patrol Staff was particularly gratified by what seemed to be a general improvement in the camping habits of overnight Wilderness Users. It enabled us to keep our high use destination areas in a relatively pristine condition despite our already reduced staffing levels in 2011. Please keep up this trend in 2012! It may well prove to be a year in which our Wilderness Users will have to assume many of our Wilderness Patrol responsibilities.

***From now on I am going to change the font color within this document each week for that week's newly reported trail entries. This will make it more convenient for return users to identify our newly reported changes in trail conditions.*

CANYON CREEK WATERSHED

Please check with the Weaverville RD for the best info on trailhead road conditions 530 623-2121.

Bear Creek Trail #10W06 – Last year (2010) our two CCC interns spent a day clearing trees starting on the Canyon Creek side of the ridge. They managed to remove over 80 downed trees, but at least 150 remain to the Alpine Trail Junction. The trail up to the ridge-top from Canyon Creek has several brushy sections and areas of thin tread, but it is passable for hikers and backpackers. There are only two short sections of approximately 10' where the brush is thick and high enough that you must simply push (force) your way through. The brush is VERY thick on last ½ mile before the Alpine trail junction however, with approximately ¼ mile of 'force your way through' type of brush.

Irrespective of the fallen logs and thick brush, stock users should take note that this trail is not suitable for stock usage *past* the ridge-top coming from the Canyon Creek side of the ridge. Even the last pitch up to the ridge-top (on the Canyon Creek side of the ridge) is on a 30 to 40% slope that gains 1200' in the last 1/3 mile. Even day-riders intent on gaining the view at the ridge-top should be prepared to walk their stock while traversing this steep gravelly trail segment

Boulder Creek Lakes Trail #10W02 – The trail is clear of debris to the lake. Be sure to pay strict attention to the cairned route across the bare granite just before lake. If you simply follow your intuitions you will probably end up at the base of the cliff below the lake. The cairns lead you higher and more to the north than you would expect, but they also lead you to the only spot that makes it possible to access the lake without the use of ropes and pitons!

*Remember, the current Forest Order for Canyon Creek specifies that there are
NO CAMPFIRE ALLOWED AT ANY OF CANYON CREEK'S LAKES. It is a \$375 fine
(absolutely no exceptions) for anyone caught in violation of this Forest Order.*

East Fork Lake Trail #9W22 – Those first two miles of trail are now clear of trees, but the brush, in parts, is practically impenetrable beyond this point.

Canyon Creek Trail #10W08 – The trail is now clear to both sets of lakes.

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COFFEE CREEK WATERSHED

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Adams Lake Trail #9W73 – The trail is now clear of debris.

Battle Canyon Trail #9W59 – The trail is VERY difficult to follow coming up from either side of the ridge. Both last year and this year Wilderness Patrol Staff could not find sections of the trail and ended up bush-whacking most of both sides of the ridge. The worst problem along this trail is on the Union side of the ridge. Naturally occurring slides down the ridge slope continually obliterate sections of the trail. This trail is only for folks who don't mind scratching their heads while staring at their map and compass for extended periods...

Billy's Peak Trail #7W08 – The CCC's were unable to clear the trail of downed trees in 2011. There are about 20 trees across the trail in the first mile and a half. Of these about four are stock stoppers, larger than 20" diameter. The trail is brushy throughout, long sleeves recommended. The trail is easy to follow and is quite passable to foot traffic. However the trailhead is hard to find, if you don't know where it is. It is marked only with a sign post that has the trail name written on it in black sharpie marker. Finding the trailhead is made more difficult by the fact that there are many more roads in the area than are marked on our maps and these are not well labeled.

Boulder Creek Trail #8W08 (Goldfield Campground Trailhead) – Coffee Creek road is open to this trailhead. The trail is freshly brushed and free of debris all the way to Foster Lake.

Caribou Lake #9W180 – There are still five trees down on the main Caribou Lakes Trail between the junction with the Old Caribou Trail and Snowslide Lake. Stock can get to Snowslide using the Old Caribou Trail however. There is still one Stock Stopper tree remaining between Snowslide Lake and the main Caribou Lake. The trail leading over to Stuart Fork is now passable. There were numerous hikers making the trek over the pass but all did mention that it was a bit tricky; use caution if going over that pass.

If you make the trek to the Caribou basin, due to the basin's rapidly disappearing organic matter, responsible hikers should refrain from having a campfire. Please keep in mind that most of the lakeside organic matter needed for plant growth (90% of the nitrogen needed) has already gone up in campfire smoke...

PLEASE NO CAMPFIRE AT CARIBOU LAKES !

East Boulder Lakes Trail #8W02 – Hikers report that the trail is free of stock stopper trees. The trail coming up from Tangle Blue Lake actually empties onto an in-holding road and travels along this dirt road for approximately 1/3 mile. Be sure to make note of this intersection because it is not well signed and is easy to miss on a return trip toward Tangle Blue. You follow this road to its terminus where the trail simply continues on (it crosses a year-round creek at this point). There are carsonite trail signs along the road, but they are in an ill state of repair. The junction to Big Marshy Lake is not signed, but the most obvious piece of the trail leads you directly to the lake. The trail continuing on to the PCT is quite faded but it can be followed if you pay close attention.

Big Boulder Lake Trail #8W20 – The road to the trail head is in good condition for a gravel road. The trail is also now free of debris to the lake.

Deadman Peak Trail #9W16 – No Information.

Doe Lake Trail #8W05 – There are 5 trees down on the trail between Stoddard Lake and Doe Lake. Two of them are stock stoppers. The lake is free of snow and the campsites are now out from under the snow.

Dorleska Mine Trail #9W65 – The trail has two trees down in the first mile of the trail. Neither are reported as stock stoppers. The trail is free of snow from beginning to end.

East Fork Saloon Creek Trail #9W03 – The trail is free of downed trees to the ridgetop (the PCT).

Lady Gulch Trail #9W05 – The trail has only one small tree down across the trail. Trail and snow conditions are not known beyond the first mile.

East Fork Coffee Creek Trail #8W06 – The trail still has four 15” trees down before the Stoddard Lake Spur Trail.

Granite Creek Trail #8W09 – The trail is now clear of debris to the junction with the Bloody Run trail.

Lion Lake Trail #8W12 – The trail is now free debris all the way to Foster Lake.

Little Boulder Lake Trail #8W11 – The road to the trailhead is in relatively good condition for a gravel road. The trail is now free of debris.

Long Gulch Trail #9W60 – Information from the Scott Valley Ranger District: As of 7/16/2011 the trail was clear for stock and hikers all the way to the lake. Some patches of snow on the north side of lake.

Trail Gulch #9W15 – Information from the Scott Valley Ranger District: As of 7/17/2011 the trail is open to hikers and stock all the way to the lake. No major obstacles.

North Fork Coffee Creek Trail #9W02 – The Coffee Creek road is open to this trailhead. The trail is now (07/05/2011) clear of debris to the junction with 9W60.

Packers Peak Trail #9W06 – The Coffee Creek Road is now open to the Packers Peak Trailhead. There is a known downed tree pile-up within the first one-mile of the trailhead. The snow and downed tree conditions are not known beyond this point. However, as of 06/24/09 the Wilderness Patrol reports that there are 16 down trees along the trail between the Onion Meadow trail junction and the Lady Gulch trail junction (9W05). However, the trail segment (9W16) that connects the Packers Peak trail to the Fish Lake/Long Gulch trail junction has an additional 9 downed trees. Several of these trees in both sections are stock stoppers. As of 09/21/09 the Trail Crew had cleared the trail of downed trees from the Coffee Creek trailhead up to Packers Peak. Hikers report that the sign demarcating the trailhead along the west side of Coffee Creek road is now missing. The trailhead can still be found approximately 1.2 miles prior to the Big Flat Trailhead.

Saloon Creek Trail #9W01 – At the end of last season there were seven trees down from the ridge-top to South Fork Lakes. Two of them would be difficult but possible for stock to get around. Their diameters are 3-12”, a suspended (6’ high) 24” fir together with an 8” fir, a 24”, and a 10” fir.

South Fork Coffee Trail #9W04 – As of 06/21/2011 there were several trees down in the first mile of the trail. One of them was a stock stopper. Tree and snow conditions are not known beyond this point. However, as of July 10th of last year hikers reported: “My trek began at the South Fork Coffee Creek trail head and my first goal was Steveale Meadows. The trail up to where it crosses the South Fork is OK (I met some

of the CCC crew a few weeks back who said they cleared trees). After wading the South Fork, the trail is a mess with much downfall up to the trail junction to Steveale Meadows.

I consider the trail from there up to the top of the ridge, the entire way, a mess! This was my second time I had walked this trail, the other was many moons ago. Additional cairns, tread work and pruning are necessary for anyone below the level of Daniel Boone to make it. I lost the trail on so many occasions I lost track, but fortunately for me, I had a fairly good idea where to look for it again. There is some downfall but it's mostly a matter of just finding the tread. Cairns work just fine on that very open upper stretch however. Some lower sections of the trail were almost soupy, with no way to avoid sinking in or bypassing short of raising the tread with rock."

Steveale Creek Trail #9W61 – As of July 10th 2010 hikers report: "I decided to head north (from the South Fork Coffee Creek/ Steveale Creek junction) to the divide above Trail Gulch Lake, as it traverses the upper reaches of the North Fork Coffee Creek (I took the upper or west branch trail; I never saw the junction that goes down the North Fork). There is much downfall here and places where the tread is indistinct and with no cairns that I saw to mark the trail. Partially due to snow, which was still plentiful, I must have lost the trail for 50-100 feet in several places. The last stretch to the top is pretty good."

Stoddard Spur Trail #8W24 – There are two 18" trees across the trail.

Sugar Pine Lake Trail #8W07 – As of 9/14/11 in the Cabin Flat trail junction area there were five 15" trees down across the trail. None of these are stock stoppers.

Tracy Trail #8W26 – The trail is now clear of debris from Big Boulder to Lilypad Lake.

Yellow Rose Trail out of Big Flat – The snow is no longer a factor on this trail, but the number of logs across the lower sections of this trail are not known at this time. However, hikers report (08/01/11) that the section of the Yellow Rose from the Dorleska turn-off to the Sunrise Basin Trail is free of stock stopping logs with only an insignificant patch of snow near the ridge-top..

Union Lake Trail #9W64 – The trail is now clear of downed trees. Continuing on up the watershed to the Landers Lake turn-off there are two large trees down but neither of them are stock stoppers.

Wolford Trail #8W03 – No Information

MAIN STEM TRINITY RIVER

*Visitors should be advised that the Main Stem area was affected by a massive wildfire in the summer of 2006. Many trails throughout the area may still have hazardous conditions for hikers and stock users. All visitors should **ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!***

Dolly Ditch Trail #10W12 – No Information

East Weaver Creek Trail #9W23 – At the end of last year, hikers reported: "I hiked up East Weaver Creek Trail a couple of days ago. This trail is in very bad shape. Lots of trees and large scale blow-down was on the entire trail, mostly from the clear cut on up. I could not walk more than a hundred yards without stepping over a tree. Some trees were the stock stopper type. I know with the funding problems this is not a priority trail, it would be a shame to see such a historic trail go away."

East Weaver Lake Trail #10W11 – The trail is free of snow and debris. The campsites are also melted off.

Rush Creek Lakes Trail #10W10 – As of 06/21/2011 the trail was clear of snow for the first three miles. There were four trees down in this two-mile stretch. One of them is a stock stopper. However, when the snow clears, the last one-mile of trail is completely covered over in force your way through head-high brush.

French Creek Trail #8E03 – The road to the trailhead is open and clear of debris. As of 06/30/2011 the first two miles had two trees down, and neither of them were stock stoppers.

Green Mountain Trail #12W09 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. Last year however, there were over ten downed trees across the trail past Ladder Camp.

Oak Flat Trail #12W16 – No Information

Manzanita Ridge Trail #12W15 – No Information

Treloar Ridge Trail #12W17 – No Information

NEW RIVER WATERSHED

*Visitors should be advised that the New River area was affected by a massive wildfire in the summer of 2006 and 2008. Many trails throughout the area may still have hazardous conditions for hikers and stock users. All visitors should **ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!***

Battle Creek Trail #8E19 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. Last year however, there were many down trees and, due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

Cinnabar Trail #12W06 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. Last year however, this trail had a major slide and is not suitable for stock use. Additionally, due to lack of funding, it has not been brushed for several years.

Eagle Creek Trail #8E11 – Due to lack of funding, the trail has not been brushed or logged out since the 2006 fire. Also, due to a lack of funding, this trail is now officially an unmaintained trail. The CCC's were up that way over the last few weeks however, and did clear the first 1.5 miles of downed trees.

East Fork New River Trail #12W08 – As of 06/15/2011 the trail has been cleared of debris and free of snow to the second creek crossing past the Semore Gulch Creek Trail Junction.

Emigrant Lake Milk Camp Trail #8E16 – The trail is now clear of snow and debris.

Lipps Camp Trail #6E01 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. Due to lack of funding, the trail has not been brushed or logged out since the 2006 fire. There are at least 40 trees down on the trail, and several lengthy sections of trail tread were obliterated in the fires of 2008.

Jim Jam Trail #12W1 – As of 05/09/2011 the trail has been cleared of trees, brush, and debris for the first 1.5 miles. Snow conditions are not known beyond that point. Last year however, Wilderness Patrol reported that the trail past the Semore Gulch trail junction was burned over badly several years ago however, and it is very tough to follow.

Mullane Corral Trail #12W04 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2006 fire. Due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

Milk Camp Trail #8E16 – No Information

New River Trail #7E05 – The trail is clear of snow and debris to the confluence with Slide Creek. Crossing the creek at the confluence is currently inadvisable.

Pony Creek Trail #12W07 – The trail is clear of snow and debris to Mullane Corral. The snow starts in earnest about ¾ mile past Mullane Corral.

Salmon Summit Trail #12W02 – The CCC's have been re-working the Salmon Summit trail from the High Point Trailhead east to Rock Lake and west to One-Mile camp on Devil's Backbone. Further east, thanks to fire rehabilitation dollars in 2009, the trail was cleared of downed trees from the Cecil Lake to Mary Blaine Meadows.

Semore Gulch Trail #8E08 – Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2006 fire. The CCC's were up that way over the last few weeks however, and did manage to clear the first 1 mile of trail starting from the East Fork of the New River. The trail is now free of snow.

Slide Creek Trail #12W03 – The trail is clear of snow and debris past Old Denny to the trail split near the Marysville Site. As of 05/28/2011 the creek crossing at Virgin Creek was waist high but passable if you found the right spot. The creek crossing at Eagle Creek was chest high and dangerous.

Soldier Creek Trail #7E01 – Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2005 season. It is now an unmaintained trail. Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time.

Virgin Creek Trail #7E03 – The trail is clear of debris to Six-mile Creek. However, there was a creek wash-out at Four-mile Creek that makes stock passage extremely dangerous due to a large slick rock with a steep outslope the can't be avoided.

NORTH FORK TRINITY RIVER (WATERSHED)

Please check with the Weaverville RD for the best info on trailhead road conditions 530 623-2121.

Backbone Creek Trail #11W07 – The CCC's have re-worked this trail to within 100 yards of One-Mile Camp. However, that last 100 yards is a solid wall of head-high brush.

Backbone Ridge Trail #11W40 – No Information

Bob's Farm Trail #11W03 – The trail is now clear of snow and debris from Rattlesnake Creek to Grizzly Creek.

China Gulch Trail #11W08 – The trail is now clear of debris to the junction with the North Fork Trinity. In fact, the North Fork Trinity is also free of snow and debris to the final scramble just before Grizzly Lake. The large tree 20 minutes out reported on 7/20/2011 has now been removed.

Green Mountain Trail #12 W09 – Downed tree conditions in 2011 are not known at this time.

Morrison Gulch Trail #11W04 – The trail has been cleared of debris and lightly brushed to improve access.

Moliter-Cold Spring Trail #11W02 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. However, as of season's end in 2009, the trail had over 25 down trees. Many of them are stock stoppers.

North Fork Trinity Trail #12W01 – Keep in mind that the road is quite rocky and has a number of blind curves. Drivers should proceed with full attention. The trail is now (2011) clear of downed logs to the scramble up toward Grizzly Lake (essentially the whole trail). The Rattlesnake Creek along the main North Fork trail is now reasonable to cross.

Rattlesnake Creek Trail #11W05 – The trail has been cleared of downed trees to the Bob's Farm intersection. The Rattlesnake Creek crossing just before Brown's Mine is no longer a problem. The next few creeks (including the Middle Fork) are also no longer a problem to cross. From Brown's Mine to Enni Camp there are 24 trees down across the trail. Amazingly, none are stock stoppers although several will be difficult for stock to get around, and none are much of an issue for hikers. From Enni Camp to Papoose Lake (about ¾ mile) there are too many trees down to count, --if you can find the trail. Much of it is badly in need of brushing and even though it is well cairned, several sections require a lot of hemming and hawing to find the way through. Stock Users should take note, that even in the best of years (a perfectly clear trail) this last ¾ mile is impossible for stock to negotiate. For hikers, this all sounds a bit worse than it actually travels. There is no doubt where

the lake is located and, with a little patience, you can get to the lake without much problem. All the trees are easy enough to step (or occasionally climb) over and even if you lose the trail for a bit you should be able to find it again without much issue. After you get through the brushy section and the two steep, nearly rock climbing elevation gains, be sure to stay up high enough along the ridge along the final approach gorge to the lake. There is actually a well-defined trail along this rather dangerous 'cliffy' section, so if you are not on it, keep looking for it to ensure your safe passage.

Raymond Flat Trail #11W12 – Snow conditions in 2010 are not known at this time.

Whites Creek Trail #11W06 – The snow and trail conditions in 2011 for this trail are not known at this time. At the end of 2010 the Whites Creek trail was clear only to Bear Wallow Meadows. Many large down trees past Bear Wallow make stock passage impossible.

Waldorf Crossing Trail #11W13 – Snow conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. The Waldorf Crossing trail is known to have a number of stock stoppers, but we do not have specifics at this time.

STUART FORK (WATERSHED)

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Alpine Lake Trail #10W04 – The trail has only three trees down and all of them are easy for hikers to pass. At the end of 2011 the CCC's finally finished clearing the 'head-high force your way through' type of brush all the way to the lake. Irrespective of the brush issue however, stock users should take note that this trail is not suitable for stock usage. Several sections are simply a 'route' up through aging talus slopes that are not practical for stock to cross. The Stuart Fork Creek crossing is now relatively safe to cross with the use of a strong staff.

*Remember, the current Forest Order for Stuart Fork specifies that there are
NO CAMPFIREs ALLOWED AT ANY OF STUART FORK'S LAKES! It is a \$375 fine
(absolutely no exceptions) for anyone caught in violation of this Forest Order.*

Bear Creek Trail #10W06 – Specific trail conditions in 2011 are not known at this time. However, the trail has significant and lengthy sections of head-high 'force your way through' type of brush between the Alpine Lake trail junction and the ridge-top. Additionally there are 150 trees down from the Alpine junction to the trail's terminus in Canyon Creek. Anyone desiring to get from Stuart Fork to Canyon Creek is much better off, at this point, to return to the Stuart Fork trailhead and drive over to the Canyon Creek trailhead.

Blacks Basin Trail #9W12 – There are several trees down on the Blacks Basin trail that would make stock passage problematic, but aren't much of an issue for backpackers.

Caribou Lake #10W01 – Before the storm of 10/05/11 trail was free of significant snow to Caribou Lake. Up to two feet of snow has fallen in this storm around the lakes however, and may not be completely melted off.

Deer Creek Trail #9W17 – The trail is now clear of downed trees.

Elk Gulch #9W31 – This is an un-maintained trail.

Four Lakes Loop Trail #9W13 – The trail is free of downed trees.

PLEASE NO CAMPFIREs AT THESE LAKES!

Granite Peak Trail #9W18 – As of 08/01/2011 there was only one snow patch left near the summit. We do not know the number of trees across the trail at this time.

Long Canyon Trail #9W14 – The CCC's have finished the trail re-routes. The two main re-routes are quite a piece of work. The one in Siligo Meadow re-aligns two trails out of Siligo's meadows up into the talus slope

under Gibson Peak. It is nothing short of a hand-crew wonder. Car sized boulders were moved with rock-bars and grip-hoists and copious amounts of crush-fill were pounded out by hand. All of which has resulted in a smooth, grade appropriate, almost invisible, new trail that is suitable for stock and backpackers alike. The other re-route is above Deer Lake. It took a 35% grade (dangerous) old trail segment and turned it into a 10% grade trail (by adding one switchback) that is much safer AND a joy to walk. Unfortunately the storm of October 5th 2011 may not allow anyone else to see it until the 2012 summer season!

Bowerman Meadows #8W22 – The trail is clear of significant debris now to Upper Bowerman Meadow.

Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67 – At the end of 2010, in spots, the tread is very thin with steep drop-offs. There are several spots where large rocks have slumped down into the tread. They are easily negotiated by hikers, but complicate stock passage. Technically it was possible for stock to pass, but with the steep out-slope and thin trail tread stock users should be prepared to walk stock on this one-mile section of trail. In 2011, the trail tread conditions are as yet unknown.

Stoney Ridge Trail #9W21 – The road is now clear of debris to the trailhead. Within the first ½ mile of Rt#3 there is a short rutted section of road that should be approached with caution. It rides tougher than it looks so be sure to slow way down for it. The trail is now clear of debris to Deer Creek Pass and Long Canyon.

The CCC's have finished the trail re-routes. The two main re-routes are quite a piece of work. The one in Siligo Meadow re-aligns two trails out of Siligo's meadows up into the talus slope under Gibson Peak. It is nothing short of a hand-crew wonder. Car sized boulders were moved with rock-bars and grip-hoists and copious amounts of crush-fill were pounded out by hand. All of which has resulted in a smooth, grade appropriate, almost invisible, new trail that is suitable for stock and backpackers alike. The other re-route is above Deer Lake. It took a 35% grade (dangerous) old trail segment and turned it into a 10% grade trail (by adding one switchback) that is much safer AND a joy to walk. Unfortunately the storm of October 5th 2011 may not allow anyone else to see it until the 2012 summer season!

Stuart Fork Trail #9W20 – As of 06/25/2011 the trail is clear of debris to Emerald and Sapphire Lakes. On the May 24th 2010 Eric saw three different bears foraging in Morris Meadow over the course of just one day, so be SURE to hang your food in an appropriate manner. (See our Leave No Trace page under the 'Useful Recreation Links' heading on the Website's Home Page for instructions on how to do so).

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Willow Creek /Tri-Forest Trail #9W11 – The snow and trail conditions in 2011 for this trail are not known at this time. As of 06/27/2010 hikers reported: "Went in at Big Flat (Coffee Creek/S. Fork Salmon) and took trail south over pass to Willow Creek. Trail under snow past Salmon Lake drain and down close to Willow Creek crossing. Additionally, there are many trees down across the trail. This trail has not been attended to in several years."

SWIFT CREEK (WATERSHED)

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Bear Basin Trail #9W10 – The trail is free of debris over into Black's Basin.

Landers Lake Trail #9W09 – As of 07/11/2011 there were three trees down in the first ½ mile coming up out of Mumford Meadow. These trees are not stock stoppers.

Lilypad Lake Trail #8W21 – The trail is clear of downed trees to the Lake and beyond to the intersection with the Deer Flat Trail.

Deer Flat Trail #8W13 – (Lake Eleanor) – The number of downed trees is not known at this time.

Granite Lake Trail #8W14 – The trail is now clear of debris all the way to the lake.

However, in 2009 the Wilderness Patrol reported that: “The trail above Granite Lake towards 7-Up is very brushy, there is a spot that lasts for about 100 yards where the brush completely covers the trail up to and over head height.” One of the brushy sections about ¼ mile from the lake is along a very thin trail tread that obscures a drop-off of several feet down into the creek. Proceed with full awareness through this section!

Mumford Basin – (This is an un-maintained trail.) – Although this is now an unmaintained trail, Stock Users report that the trail is free of snow and that the downed trees are easily negotiable.

Parker Creek Trail #9W19 – Stock Users Report: “We rode the loop Mumford - Landers- Union-Parker, Monday 7/25/11, snow is clear on all except a few drifts on the north side of the pass --no logs -- trail good condition. Parker Trail a little hard to follow up high (pretty usual) and only one log down on the Parker trail but is passable, only issue is the slide ...trail about 10 inches wide and a bit unstable -- I chose to lead the horse across, but husband rode it -- will need some more work one of these days.”

Poison Canyon Trail #8W10 – The road is clear of debris to the trailhead. It has quite a few rocks lying along the road surface however so drive with caution. The trail is clear of downed trees to the Lilypad Lake. The trail is also clear over to Big Boulder from Lilypad Lake.

Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67 – At the end of 2010, in spots, the tread was very thin with steep drop-offs. There were several spots where large rocks have slumped down into the tread. They are easily negotiated by hikers, but complicate stock passage. Technically it was possible for stock to pass, but with the steep out-slope and thin trail tread stock users should be prepared to walk stock on this one-mile section of trail. In 2011, the trail tread conditions are as yet unknown.

Swift Creek Trail #8W15 – The trail is clear of significant debris all the way to both Ward and Horseshoe Lakes. The trail up out of Mumford Basin to Ward and Horseshoe Lakes has several sections of steep close cropped (close together) steps and areas of scree that make stock passage dangerous, especially coming back down-slope toward the meadows. Stock access to these two lakes is not recommended.

Sunrise Basin Trail #9W15 – In 2011, only a few blow-downs were encountered and none were stock stoppers.

Thumb Rock Trail #8W16 – The snow and trail conditions in 2011 for this trail are not known at this time.

Ward Lake Trail #9W66 – As of 07/16/2011 the trail coming over from Swift Creek to Ward Lake was clear of debris. The trail running over to/from Big Flat has a number of stock stoppers trees down and the snowfield on the Big Flat side of the ridge was still quite hazardous (steep and icy) to traverse. The lake was free of snow and ice and most of the campsites are free of snow. As of 08/05/2011 hikers report that the snow patch on the Big Flat side of the ridge is still significant.

**Due to the fragile nature of the campsite on the peninsula, we are now asking hikers NOT to have a campfire on the peninsula.

UPPER TRINITY (WATERSHED)

Please check with the Weaverville RD for the best info on trailhead road conditions 530 623-2121.

Bear Lake Trail #7W03 – The access road to the trailhead is clear of debris. The trail is now reopened with a re-route around the old road bridge right at the trailhead (that the county deemed unsafe this winter). The trail now leaves the trailhead heading east toward the Trinity River instead of going directly over the old road bridge. This is not particularly intuitive so look closely to find the new trail.

** Overnight hikers please note that the campsites around the lake are rapidly becoming devoid of firewood. If you must have a campfire, make it only a small social fire at night in a pre-existing fire ring.

Bloody Run Trail #8W04 – There are approximately twelve twenty-four inch tress across the trail. Several are stock stoppers. As of season's end in 2011, several sections on the east side of the ridge (where the trail loses elevation toward Bloody Run Creek) were quite obscure and hard to follow.

Deadfall Lakes Trail – The trail is clear of significant debris.

Eagle Creek Trail #7W05 – The road to the trailhead is closed for the 2011 season. Typically it is re-opened in the second week of May. As of 06/20/2011 hikers report: "The Eagle Creek Benches trail is in reasonably good condition until it hits the "logging" road where we encountered 2-3 feet of snow. The first trail marker is broken and we have up righted it and secured it with a pile of rocks. SPI has logged in very close proximity to the trail and there are unburned slash piles. There is one water crossing prior to hitting the road which is not dangerous in terms of flow, but should be crossed with caution as it is wet and slippery. There is also one tree down prior to the road that needs to be cleared as it is too large to hand clear it, however, it can be negotiated by crawling through it. However, it would be a show stopper for horses/mules."

When the snow thaws, up in the Benches themselves, there are many spots where the trail crosses meadows. Users will find that the trail is clearly marked with cairns (ducks) to facilitate proper orientation. At these meadow crossings (in locations where there is no visible trail tread), please 'meander' across the meadow to keep a visible path from forming. When usage is low in places like the Eagle Creek Benches impacts to the meadows can be reduced if users simply follow individual and slightly winding paths from cairn to cairn across the meadow.

East Boulder Lake Trail #8W02 – The trail is free of downed trees to the Lakes. The trail coming up from Tangle Blue Lake actually empties onto an in-holding road and travels along this dirt road for approximately 1/3 mile. Be sure to make note of this intersection because it is not well signed and is easy to miss on a return trip toward Tangle Blue. You follow this road to its terminus where the trail simply continues on (it crosses a year-round creek at this point). There are carsonite trail signs along the road, but they are in an ill state of repair. The junction to Big Marshy Lake is not signed, but the most obvious piece of the trail leads you directly to the lake. The trail continuing on to the PCT is quite faded but it can be followed if you pay close attention.

Pacific Crest Trail #2000 – The trail is free of significant downed trees.

PCT Lake Reports – Information from the Scott Valley Ranger District:

- Little Mill Trailhead- open and clear to trailhead.
- Fox Creek Ridge Trailhead- As of 7/9/2011 the road is open in both directions to the trailhead. The trail to Fox Creek Lake and Mavis Lake is passable for both hikers and Stock. Virginia Lake is accessible from Fox Creek Lake and Section Line Lake is accessible from Mavis Lake both via cross country.
- Middle Boulder Trailhead - (6/26) Trailhead open and cleared to the "Boulder Tie" trail. Trail is free of snow to JCT w/ the PCT. A Few patches of snow may prevent stock users from accessing the PCT here.
- East Boulder Trailhead – The trails to the Boulder Lakes area are free of downed trees.
- Fish Lake Trailhead – The trail is clear of significant debris. Two knee deep stream crossings (first one has a log crossing downstream). The trail to Fish Lake is hard to distinguish at the Junction with Twin Lakes Trail. The Fish Lake trail is through the tall Corn Lilies.
- Carter Meadows Loop- The road is open (2011) and all trailheads are accessible.
- The trail is now clear debris to the junction with the North Fork Trinity. In fact, the North Fork Trinity is also free of debris to the final scramble just before Grizzly Lake. The large tree reported on 7/20 has now been removed.

Stoddard Lake Trail #7W06 (accessed off of Route #3) – The last ½ mile of the road (the same section no matter which access road you started from) is quite rough and should not be attempted by vehicles with low ground clearance. Some improvement of the last ½ mile of road tread occurred last year (and this early summer)

but this section is still difficult for vehicles without much ground clearance. The trail is now clear of debris with the exception of and three 15" trees down on the trail segment that runs around the lake to the west (toward the large horse site on the west side of the lake).

Sadly, on a trip to Stoddard on 06/13/09 we discovered that, at the very first campsite you come to at the lake, over 30 new trees had been mutilated (snapped off, sawed off, axed off, and defaced). Additionally, over 60 pounds of garbage from the site had to be bagged up --for stock removal at our earliest opportunity. Please take note that green trees barely burn (if at all!) and that leaving garbage in the wilderness is against the law. If you see uninformed wilderness users cutting down live trees, please feel free to inform them that this practice is against the law.

Tangle Blue Lake Trail #8W01 and #8W23 – There is one non-stock stopper tree on the trail about ¼ mile past the first creek crossing, and two 10" trees down in section 27 past Tangle Blue Lake. These trees are not reported as stock stoppers.

Telephone Lake Trail #8W25- No Information

We constantly strive to provide you with the most up to date trail and campsite information. When you return home from your Wilderness adventure, if there is something new that you think we should know, please feel free to send me an E-Mail jholmes@fs.fed.us and I will see to it that it gets posted. For those of you who write asking specific trail condition questions, I will respond as quickly as I can. If my response takes a couple of days, please understand that often I am out in the field clearing trails, or rehabilitating campsites.

Thanks for Your Help, Jim Holmes (Wilderness Program Manager)